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For Immediate release
December 1, 2004

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**STATE OF VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
MEDIA RELEASE**

**NUCLEAR ADVISORY PANEL TO HOST NUCLEAR
REGULATORY COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING**

Montpelier, VT – The Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel (V-SNAP) will meet with officials of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in a public meeting to hear the results of the NRC's independent engineering inspection and misplaced spent fuel inspection at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Station, and to answer questions on the results. The meeting will be held Thursday, December 16, 2004, at the Brattleboro High School, from 6 to 9 p.m.

The meeting substitutes for a previously scheduled NRC meeting in Vernon that was cancelled when estimates of possible attendees exceeded the space reserved for the meeting. The meeting will be held in the Brattleboro High School auditorium, and overflow capacity will be available in the gymnasium with access through closed-circuit television.

The meeting agenda opens with a presentation by the NRC of the results of the independent engineering inspection and misplaced spent fuel inspection. The results are expected to be available approximately two weeks in advance of the meeting on the NRC's website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/vermont-yankee-issues.html>. Following the NRC presentation, V-SNAP members will question the NRC, followed by questions and comments from the public. In order to ensure all members of the public have an opportunity to be heard, a three-minute time limit per commenter will be employed unless turnout is low. Public interest groups and Entergy will be given extended time and preference in the order of speakers.

"The panel knows there is a very high level of public interest in this report. We have structured this meeting to provide information to the public on an issue of great importance to the local community, and to ensure a voice for those who want to speak," said David O'Brien, Commissioner of the Department of Public Service and Chairman of V-SNAP. "We hope by moving the meeting to the largest available venue, ensuring access to the NRC report in advance, and providing structure to the meeting process through hosting by V-SNAP that the meeting will have the maximum value possible." O'Brien added, "We fully understand the importance of this issue for local residents, but we sincerely hope that participants will be willing to abide by some basic ground rules so that the NRC can provide important information and everyone who wishes to will have a chance to comment."

The NRC has indicated that, because the power uprate review is on-going, it would be premature for the staff to engage in discussion of the power uprate proposal, or the associated hearing before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The NRC will discuss the scope of the engineering team's inspection, its results, and how the inspection findings will be considered in the NRC's review of Entergy's proposed power uprate.

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